AP US HISTORY

Colonial History (1600-1763)

1.Separatist vs. non-Separatist Puritans – Radical Calvinists against the Church of England; Separatists (Pilgrims) argued for a break  
from the Church of England, led the Mayflower, and established the  
settlement at Plymouth

2.Northwest Passage – believed to provide shortcut from Atlantic to

Pacific, searched for by Giovanni de Verrazano for Francis I in the

race to Asian wealth

3.Conversion Experience – required of members of the Puritan

Church; took the place of baptism required by the Catholic Church

4.Social Reciprocity – society naturally punishes criminals

indiscriminantly

5.Church of England – Protestant church led by the king of England,

independent of Catholic Church; tended toward Catholicism during

reign of Catholic royalty

6.Atlantic slave trade – often debtors sold to slave traders by African

kings seeking riches; Columbian Exchange

7.Jamestown – first permanent English settlement in the Americas

(1607), along James River

8.John Smith – introduced work ethic to Jamestown colony,

sanitation, diplomat to local Native American tribes; had fought

Spanish and Turks

9.Pocahontas – key to English-Native American relationship, died in

England in 1617

10.Mayflower Compact – foundation for self-government laid out by

the first Massachusetts settlers before arriving on land

11.John Winthrop – Calvinist, devised concept of “city on a hill” (“A

Model of Christian Charity”); founded highly successful towns in

Massachusetts Bay

12.“City on a Hill” – exemplary Christian community, rich to show

charity, held to Calvinistic beliefs

13.Indentured servants – settlers to pay the expenses of a servant’s

voyage and be granted land for each person they brought over;

headright system

14.Maryland Act of Religious Toleration (1649) – mandated the

toleration of all Christian denominations in Maryland, even though

Maryland was founded for Catholics (but majority was protestant)

15.James I, Charles I – reluctant to give colonists their own

government, preferred to appoint royal governors

16.William Penn and the Quakers – settled in Pennsylvania, believed

the “Inner Light” could speak through any person and ran religious

services without ministers

17.Roger Williams – challenged New Englanders to completely

separate Church from State, as the State would corrupt the church

18.Anne Hutchinson – challenged New England Calvinist ministers’

authority, as they taught the good works for salvation of Catholicism

19.The Half-Way Covenant – New Englanders who did not wish to

relate their conversion experiences could become half-way saints so

that their children would be able to have the opportunity to be saints

20.Bacon’s Rebellion – rebels felt the governor of Virginia failed to

protect the frontier from the Native Americans

Independence (1763-1789)

21.Navigation Acts – only English and American ships allowed to

colonial ports; dissent began in 1763

22.Mercantilism – ensured trade with mother country, nationalism; too

restrictive on colonial economy, not voted on by colonists

23.Charles II, James II – tried to rule as absolute monarchs without

using Parliament, little to no sympathy for colonial legislatures

24.William and Mary – ended the Dominion of New England, gave

power back to colonies

25.Dominion of New England – combined Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Plymouth (and later Jersey and New York) into one “supercolony” governed by Sir Edmond Andros, a “supergovernor”

26.The Glorious Revolution – William and Mary kicked James II out

of England (exiled into France), allowed more power to the

legislatures

27.James Oglethorpe – established colony of Georgia as a place for

honest debtors

28.The Enlightenment – emphasis on human reason, logic, and

science (acquired, not nascent, knowledge); increased followers of

Christianity

29.Benjamin Franklin – connected the colonies to Britain, opposed to

unnecessary unfair taxation; strong influence on Albany Plan

30.The Great Awakening – began by Edwards to return to Puritanism, increased overall religious involvement, gave women more active roles in religion, more and more ministers sprouted up throughout the country; mainly affected towns and cities

• Deists – believed that God created the universe to act through

natural laws; Franklin, Jefferson, Paine

• George Whitefield – powerful speaker, toured the country and

inspired many into Christianity

• Jonathan Edwards – Puritan minister, led revivals, stressed

immediate repentance

• New Lights vs. Old Lights – New Lights brought new ideas,

rejected by Old Lights; both sought out institutions independent

of each other

31.Albany Plan of Union – colonies proposed colonial confederation

under lighter British rule (crown-appointed president, “Grand

Council”); never took effect

32.French and Indian War – French threat at the borders was no

longer present, therefore the colonies didn’t need English protection;

more independent stand against Britain

33.Proclamation of 1763 – prohibited settlements west of Appalachian,

restriction on colonial growth

34.Salutary Neglect – Parliament took minor actions in the colonies,

allowing them to experiment with and become accustomed to self-

government, international trade agreements

35.Writs of Assistance – search warrants on shipping to reduce

smuggling; challenged by James Otis

36.Townshend Act (1767) – similar to Navigation; raised money to pay

colonial officials by American taxes; led to Boston boycott of

English luxuries

37.Sugar Act – increased tariff on sugar (and other imports), attempted

to harder enforce existing tariffs

38.Stamp Act– taxes on all legal documents to support British troops,

not approved by colonists through their representatives

• Stamp Act Congress – held in New York, agreed to not import

British goods until Stamp Act was repealed

• Virginia Resolves – “no taxation without representation,”

introduced by Patrick Henry

39.Currency Act – prohibited colonies from issuing paper money,

destabilized colonial economy

40.Virtual Representation – all English subjects are represented in

Parliament, including those not allowed to vote

41.The Loyal Nine – group of Bostonians in opposition to the Stamp

Act, sought to drive stamp distributors from the city

42.Sons of Liberty – organized and controlled resistance against

Parliamentary acts in less violent ways (strength of martyrdom),

advocated nonimportation

43.Declaratory Act – allowed Parliament to completely legislate over

the colonies, limited colonists’ say

44.Boston Massacre – British soldiers shot into crowd of snowball

fight; two of nine soldiers (defended by John Adams) found guilty of

manslaughter

45.Committees of Correspondence – committees appointed from

different colonies to communicate on matters; asserted rights to self-

government, cooperation between colonies

46.Tea Act (1773) – intended to save British East India Company from

bankruptcy, could sell directly to consumers rather than through

wholesalers (lowered prices to compete with smuggled tea)

47.Boston Tea Party – peaceful destruction of British tea in Boston

Harbor by colonists disguised as Indians

48.Quebec Acts – former French subjects in Canada allowed to keep

Catholicism, while American colonists expected to participate in the

Church of England

49.Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts) – in reaction to the Boston Tea

Party; closing of Boston Harbor, revocation of Massachusetts charter (power to governor), murder in the name of royal authority would be tried in England or another colony

50.Suffolk Resolves – organize militia, end trade with Britain, refuse to pay taxes to Britain

51.Olive Branch Petition – politely demanded from the king a cease- fire in Boston, repeal of Coercive Acts, guarantee of American rights

52.Thomas Paine, Common Sense – stressed to the American people

British maltreatment and emphasize a need for revolution; appealed

to American emotions

53.George Washington – American commander-in-chief; first president, set precedents for future presidents, put down Whiskey  
Rebellion (enforced Whiskey Tax), managed first presidential  
cabinet, carefully used power of executive to avoid monarchial style  
rule

54.Whigs (Patriots) – most numerous in New England, fought for

independence

55.Tories (Loyalists) – fought for return to colonial rule, usually

conservative (educated and wealthy)

56.British strengths and weaknesses – British citizenship

outnumbered colonies’, large navy and professional army; exhausted

resources (Hessians hired), national debt

• Colonial strengths and weaknesses – fair amount of troops,

short guerilla tactics, strong leaders (Washington);

nonprofessional army that could not handle long battles

57.Battle of Saratoga – American general Horatio Gates was

victorious over British general Burgoyne

58.Valley Forge – scarce supplies (food and clothing), army motivated

by von Steuben

59.Battle of Yorktown – last major battle; surrender of Cornwallis, led

King George III to officially make peace with the colonies

60.Treaty of Paris (1783) – full American independence, territory west

of Appalachian ceded to America, loyalists to be compensated for

seized property, fishing rights off of Newfoundland

61.American society during the Revolution – British-occupied cities,

new governments, fighting by any with experience, loaned money,

African-Americans and Native Americans involved

62.Articles of Confederation – states joined for foreign affairs, Congress reigned supreme (lacked executive and judicial), one vote  
per state, 2/3 vote for bills, unanimous for amendments; too much  
power to states, unable to regulate commerce or taxes

63.Virginia Statute on Religious Freedom (1786) – foundation for

First Amendment, offered free choice of religion, not influenced by

state

64.Northwest Ordinance of 1787 – defined process for territories to

become states (population reached 60,000), forbade slavery in the

new territories

65.Alexander Hamilton – pushed for Assumption (federal government to assume state debts), pushed creation of the National Bank (most  
controversial), loose interpretation of Constitution, leader of  
Federalist Party

66.James Madison – strong central government, separation of powers,

“extended republic”

67.Shays’s Rebellion – mistreated farmers, fear of mobocracy, forced

people to think about central government

68.Connecticut Compromise – advocated by Roger Sherman,

proposed two independently-voting senators per state and

representation in the House based on population

• Virginia Plan – bicameral congressional representation based

on population

• New Jersey Plan – equal representation in unicameral congress

• Commerce Compromise – congress could tax imports but not

exports

69.Federalism – strong central government provided by power divided

between state and national governments, checks and balances,

amendable constitution

70.Changes in the Constitution from the Articles – stronger union of states, equal and population-based representation, simple majority  
vote (with presidential veto), regulation of foreign and interstate  
commerce, execution by president, power to enact taxes, federal  
courts, easier amendment process

• Articles’ achievement – system for orderly settlement of West

• Elastic Clause (“necessary and proper”) – gives Congress the

power to pass laws it deems necessary to enforce the

Constitution

71.Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists – Anti-Federalists wanted states’ rights, bill of rights, unanimous consent, reference to religion, more  
power to less-rich and common people; Federalists wanted strong  
central government, more power to experienced, separation of  
church and state, stated that national government would protect  
individual rights

72.The Federalist Papers – written anonymously by Hamilton, Jay, and

Madison; commentary on Constitution, republicanism extended over

large territory

Post-Independence and Critical Period (1789-1800)

73.Judiciary Act of 1789 – established federal district courts that

followed local procedures, Supreme Court had final jurisdiction;

compromise between nationalists and advocates for states’ rights

74.Bill of Rights – protected rights of individual from the power of the

central government

75.Bank of the United States – Hamilton’s plan to solve

Revolutionary debt, Assumption highly controversial, pushed his

plan through Congress, based on loose interpretation of Constitution

76.Report on Public Credit – proposed by Hamilton to repair war

debts; selling of securities and federal lands, assumption of state

debts, set up the first National Bank

77.Report on Manufactures (tariffs) – Hamilton praised efficient

factories with few managers over many workers, promote

emigration, employment opportunities, applications of technology

78.Strict vs. Loose interpretation of the Constitution – loose

interpretation allowed for implied powers of Congress (such as the

National Bank), strict interpretation implied few powers to Congress

79.Whiskey Rebellion – Western Pennsylvanian farmers’ violent

protest against whiskey excise tax, Washington sent large army to

put down revolt, protests to be limited to non-violent

80.Citizen Genet – Edmond Genet contributed to polarization of the

new nation by creating his American Foreign Legion in the south,

which was directed to attack Spanish garrisons in New Orleans and

St. Augustine

81.Impressment – British Navy would take American sailors and force

them to work for Britain

82.Jay’s Treaty – provided for evacuation of English troops from posts

in the Great Lakes

83.Nullification – states could refuse to enforce the federal laws they

deemed unconstitutional

84.Federalists and Republicans – the two political parties that formed

following Washington’s presidency; Federalists for stronger central

government, Republicans for stronger state governments

85.Washington’s Farewell Address – warned against permanent

foreign alliances and political parties, called for unity of the country,

established precedent of two-term presidency

• Neutrality Proclamation of 1793 – response to French attempts

for alliance with US

86.XYZ Affair – French foreign minister (Talleyrand) demanded bribe

in order to meet with American peace commission, made Adams

unpopular among the people

87.Alien and Sedition Acts – meant to keep government unquestioned

by critics, particularly of the Federalists

88.Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions – argued that states had the

right to determine whether or not the laws passed by Congress were

constitutional